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NEWS

Disability Pride Month honors the ADA, uplifts resources for inclusion and access

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

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July is Disability Pride Month and the Network for Social Justice offers a resource guide for inclusion and access for disabled residents. COURTESY PHOTO

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The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice:

July is Disability Pride Month, a time to celebrate the strength, resilience, and diversity of the disability community while honoring the civil rights milestones that have paved the way for greater inclusion.

This year marks the 35th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the landmark legislation signed on July 26, 1990, that prohibits discrimination based on disability and promotes equal opportunity across all areas of public life.

The passage of the ADA was a powerful victory, built on years of activism, advocacy, and grassroots organizing. As Sen. Bob Dole said at the time, "We need this legislation not only because it is just and fair for people with disabilities, but because all of us can benefit from the talents and abilities of all Americans."

Since then, Disability Pride events across the country have continued to affirm this spirit, including Boston's historic Disability Pride Parade in 1990, just months after the ADA was signed into law.

Celebrating disability pride in Boston

This year's Disability Pride Month includes a public celebration in Boston's City Hall Square on Wednesday, July 23, 2025, at noon. The event will feature music, speakers, and a powerful reminder of the disabili community's pride, resilience, and right to visibility.

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Let this month serve as a reminder that Disability Pride is not only about rights, it's about joy, culture, and community.

Another opportunity to gain an appreciation for the challenges and resilience of people with disabilities is to watch "The Ride Ahead," a POV film released Monday, July 21, and streaming on PBS. The lead in the film is Samuel Habib who with his father, photojournalist Daniel Habib, have made several award-winning films including "Disability Road Map."

Local and regional resources for people with disabilities

In recognition of Disability Pride Month, we are highlighting resources that support inclusion, accessibility, and independence for people with disabilities in Winchester and the surrounding region.

The following organizations offer services ranging from advocacy and accessibility to inclusive programming, independent living, and communication support.

In Winchester

Winchester Disability Access Commission

This volunteer-led town commission works to promote accessibility and inclusion across Winchester. It advises on ADA compliance and town infrastructure, collaborates with town departments, and supports awareness and advocacy. Community members can contact the ADA Coordinator for questions or requests.

Regional Resources

NuPath, Inc.

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Based in Woburn, NuPath provides services for adults with disabilities, including job training, community engagement, residential support, and life-skills development. Their goal is to create pathways to independence and meaningful inclusion.

Programs are person-centered and adaptive to individual needs.

Communitas (formerly EMARC)

Communitas offers family support, employment training, recreational opportunities, and residential services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

With offices in Wakefield and Woburn, they serve all ages and partner with families to create inclusive, fulfilling lives. Emergency assistance and wraparound services are also available.

For the Hearing Impaired

Massachusetts Relay Service (Dial 711)

This free service connects individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-disabled with standard telephone users. Callers can use a TTY or other assistive technology to communicate via a relay operator. Dial 711 from any phone in Massachusetts to access the service. mass.gov

DEAF, Inc.

DEAF, Inc. provides independent living services, advocacy, and educational programming for Deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Their services include interpreter referrals, peer mentoring, health literacy programs, and youth engagement.

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DEAF, Inc. is Deaf-led and culturally aligned with the communities it serves.

For the Visually Impaired

Massachusetts Commission for the Blind (MCB)

MCB serves individuals of all ages who are legally blind by offering vocational rehabilitation, independent living skills training, and technology assistance. They work with individuals, schools, and employers to increase accessibility and economic self-sufficiency.

MCB also connects people with adaptive tools, housing, and community support.

For more information, visit the Network for Social Justice or reach out to local partners listed above. Together, let's continue building a more accessible and inclusive future.

Winchester News is a non-profit organization supported by our community. If you appreciate having local Winchester news, please donate to support our work, and subscribe to our free weekly newsletter.

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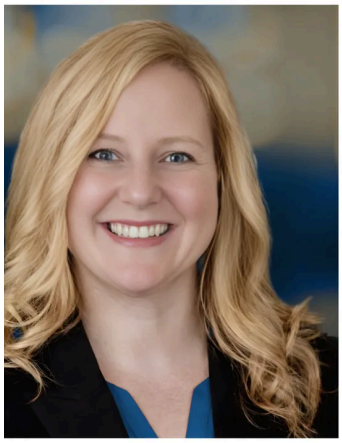

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

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as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. Set in the 1920s, this iconic production is sure to leave the audience wanting more. Performances will

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EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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